



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT01577	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/004287	International filing date (day/month/year) 03 April 2003 (03.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 April 2002 (17.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61B 8/12		
Applicant HITACHI MEDICAL CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17 October 2003 (17.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/JP2003/004287

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	3, 5, 8	YES
	Claims	1-2, 4, 6, 7, 9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2-271843 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 6 November 1990

Document 2: JP 11-305143 A (Toshiba Corp.), 5 November 1999

Document 3: CD-ROM of the specifications and drawings annexed to the application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 61854/1991 (Laid-open No. 13408/1993) (Yokogawa Medical Systems, Ltd.), 23 February 1993

Document 4: JP 2001-224590 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 21 August 2001

Document 5: JP 7-116168 A (Terumo Corp.), 9 May 1995

Document 6: Microfilm of the specifications and drawings annexed to the application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 27183/1986 (Laid-open No. 140451/1987) (Fujitsu Ltd.), 4 September 1987

Claims 1 and 2

The invention described in claims 1 and 2 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1, 2, and 3. Document 1 discloses an invention of an ultrasound probe constituted using a flexible substrate on which are

provided signal lines for obtaining signals transmitted and received from a plurality of ultrasound oscillators, said signal lines being provided at a specified angle relative to the longitudinal direction of the ultrasound oscillators, wherein the flexible substrate is wound in a spiral form. Further, a technique wherein a flexible substrate having cutouts is used to constitute signal lines for obtaining signals transmitted and received from a plurality of ultrasound oscillators is a known technique in the technical field of ultrasound probes (for examples, see documents 2 and 3). Moreover, document 2 discloses a feature wherein such flexible substrates having cutouts are bundled (see especially fig. 4). Thus, applying the features disclosed in documents 2 and 3 to the invention disclosed in document 1 would be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 4, 6, and 7

The invention described in claims 4, 6, and 7 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 5. The provision of a shielding material around a signal line is a known technique in the technical field of ultrasound probes (for examples, see documents 4 and 5). Thus, adding the above known technique to an invention derived from documents 1 to 3 would be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claim 9

The invention described in claim 9 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 and 6. Document 6 discloses a flexible substrate for obtaining a signal from an ultrasound oscillator, wherein a signal line is provided on a first surface and a ground line is provided on a second surface. Thus, applying the feature disclosed in document 6 to an invention derived from

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documents 1 to 3 would be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 3, 5, and 8

The invention described in claims 3, 5, and 8 is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report, nor would it be obvious to a person skilled in the art.